THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) the issue of Public-Private Partnership for urban infrastructure development was discussed at the Conference of Ministers of Urban Deveioprneni. Local Self Government & Housing of States/Union Territories held at New Delhi on 12.9.2002.

As per the India Infrastiucture Report brought oui and published in 1996 by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). New Delhi, the investment required for urban infrastructure (water supply, sanitation and roads) is Rs. 28,036 crores per year on an average during 1996-2006. It assessed availability of funds in 1995 as approximately Rs. 5,000 crores (tor water supply & sanitation only).

In order to bridge the resource gap the Government has initiated reform measures In tho development of urban infrastructure. Three new tools, namely. Urban Reforms Incentive Fund, City Challenge Fund and State Pooled Finance Devclopmctnt Fund have boon proposetJ in the Finance Minister's budget speech of 2002-03 In order to makfe cities creditworthy for accessing capital market and also ensuring private sector participation.

Investments by HUDCO

592. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN;
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whelKer Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item whioh appeared in the Economic Timer., d&;ed 10*" October, 2002 regarding investments being made by Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) in companies with doubtful ability to repay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVFRTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being gathered.